

REMARKS

The Office Action requires restriction among the first trim element (Species 1), the second trim element (Species 2), and the third trim element (Species 3). Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.143, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement. See *a/so* MPEP 818.03.

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 and claim 11 are generic claims. Examiner indicates that Species 1 is illustrated in Figures 1 through 6, that Species 2 is illustrated in Figures 7 through 12, and that Species 3 is illustrated in Figures 13 through 18. Claim 1 of the present application reads on each of the views presented in Figures 1 through 18, as is required for a generic claim. Claim 11 is generic as well, since it also reads on each of the views presented in Figures 1 through 18. See MPEP 806.04(d). Claims 1 and 11 are the only independent claims in the present application.

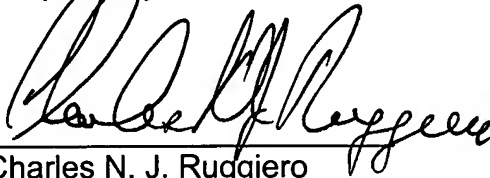
If the search and examination of all the claims in an application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine them on the merits, even though they include claims to independent or distinct inventions. See MPEP 803. Because both claim 1 and claim 11 are generic to all three species, it is respectfully submitted that searching and examining the subject matter of Species 2 and Species 3 along with Species 1 does not place a serious burden on the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the requirement for restriction with regard to Species 2 and Species 3, and examination on the merits of claims 1 through 20.

To comply with the outstanding requirement should the Examiner not find the above argument persuasive, Applicant elects, with traverse, the invention of Species 1, which reads on claim 1, claim 2, and claims 4 through 9; and withdraws claim 3, claim 10, and claims 11 through 20. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to file a divisional application directed to the subject matter of the non-elected claims.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for examination. Applicant respectfully requests favorable consideration and passage of this application to allowance.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that consultation with Applicant's attorney would be helpful in the advancement of the prosecution, the Examiner is invited to call the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles N. J. Ruggiero", written over a horizontal line.

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